

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /012 W
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P R 061502Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1879

USIA FOR IEE/IBS/IPS

DEPT FOR CU/EE

MUNICH FOR VOA/CARP

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL RO
SUBJ: VISIT OF LUCILLE ARMSTRONG

1. MRS. LUCILLE ARMSTRONG IS VERY SPECIAL LADY. DURING FINAL ENCOUNTER WITH FRIENDS, FANS AND PROFESSIONAL ACQUAINTANCES OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG AT PRAGUE RECEPTION, AUGUST 5, PRINCIPAL CZECH HOST AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF PRAGUE'S LUCERNA HALL, WHERE LOUIS PLAYED SEVEN CONCERTS IN LATE 1965, SAID, "YOU DIDN'T COME ALONE. YOU BROUGHT SATCHMO BACK WITH YOU". POST EMPHATICALLY AGREES.

2. MRS. ARMSTRONG PLAYED FOUR ONE-NIGHTERS AT LOCAL THEATERS IN USTI NAD LABEM, NOVY BOR, DECIA AND ZATEC. TOTAL AUDIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1300 INCLUDED BOTH OLD FANS CARRYING ALBUMS AND PROGRAM NOTES FOR AUTOGRAPHS AND NEW GENERATION WHO "MET" SATCHMO FOR FIRST TIME.

3. APPEARANCES WERE OCCASION FOR MOVING PUBLIC AND
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PRIVATE TRIBUTES TO LOUIS. YOUNG FAN IN DECIN AT

LECTURE ATTENDED BY REGIONAL AND LOCAL NOTABLES, WHO DELIVERED NEAR EULOGY TO ARMSTRONG DURING QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD, RIVALED ELOQUENCE OF NUMEROUS SIMILAR STATEMENTS BY CZECHS MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LECTURE TOUR. CZECH GIFTS OF CRYSTAL, PAINTINGS AND FILMS LENT FURTHER SUBSTANCE TO WARM WELCOME.

4. PRESS COVERAGE FOR TOUR IN LIDOVA DEMOCRACIE, SVOBODNE SLOVO AND REGIONAL PAPERS ALREADY SURPASSES RESULTS OF 1973 FIFTH DIMENSION CONCERT. ANTICIPATE FEATURE COVERAGE IN MLADY SVET, SMENA(BRATISLAVA) AND KVETY; PLUS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BROADCAST OF RECORDED ARMSTRONG INTERVIEWS.

5. DOORS RE-OPENED IN LOCAL MUSICAL WORLD BY MRS. ARMSTRONG'S VISIT PROMISE CONTINUING BENEFIT FROM HER VISIT. OPPORTUNITY TO STAGE MEANINGFUL MULTIMEDIA PROGRAM(SLIDES AND FILMS AT LECTURES; VTR AT RECEPTION)ON SITES REMOVED FROM DIRECT POST CONTROL AND/OR BEFORE AUDIENCES NORMALLY INACCESSIBLE WAS REWARDING AND UNPARALLELED IN RECENT EXPERIENCE. CZECH ON-STAGE LECTURE PARTICIPATION PROVED PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL.

6. MRS. ARMSTRONG FULLY EARNED POST GRATITUDE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL PERFORMANCE IN BEST TRADITION OF MAN WHOSE MEMORY SHE CELEBRATES.

5. ARMSTRONG AND JACOBS DEPARTED PRAGUE FOR BUDAPEST 1305 HOURS, AUGUST 6, OK 862. FULL REPORT FOLLOWS.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUSIC, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRAGUE01879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0493
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740870/aaaacily.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF LUCILLE ARMSTRONG
TAGS: SCUL, RO, (ARMSTRONG, LUCILLE)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005